

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6827

E.O. 11652: GGS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, JM
SUBJECT: IMPLIED COMPLICITY OF CIA IN DUNCAN POISONING

REF: KINGSTON 6824

1. DURING A LUNCHEON MEETING TODAY WITH FONMIN PATTERSON WITH FS INSPECTOR MANFULL PRESENT, I BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF THE "PENTHOUSE" ARTICLE AND THE LATEST UTTORANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT THE ALLEGED DUNCAN POISOING. I REMARKED THAT IN NO WAY WAS THE US INVOLVED IN ANY ALLEGED DESTABILIZATION OF JAMAICA LAST YEAR, OR IN THE ALLEGED ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE THE PRIME MINISTER, OR IN THE ALLEGED DUNCAN POISONING, AND THAT I FELT IT DAMAGING TO US/JAMAICAN RELATIONS FOR GOJ OFFICIALS TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION WITH THE JAMAICAN PUBLIC THAT THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO THE "PENTHOUSE" ARTICLE OR COMPLICITY ON THE PART OF THE US IN ANY OF THE ALLEGATIONS. THE FONMIN REITERATED WHAT HE TOLD ME IN OUR PRIVATE MEETING LAST WEEK NAMELY THAT HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAD AGREED IN STOCKHOLM THAT NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR THE PNP WOULD GIVE OUT ANY STATEMENTS
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ON THE ALLEGATIONS OR WOULD PERMIT THEMSELVES TO ENGAGE IN ANY DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT. HE SAID HE WAS FORCED, HOWEVER, TO MAKE A STATEMENT WHEN THE OPPOSITION JLP DEMANDED AN INVESTIGATION. HE TOLD ME THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PURSUE AN INVESTIGATION OF BOTH THE "PENTHOUSE" ALLEGATIONS AND THE ALLEGED DUNCAN POISONING. PATTERSON'S MANNER OF SPEAKING ON THIS POINT IMPLIED

THAT THE USG MIGHT NOT WANT AN INVESTIGATION. I CORRECTED THAT IMPRESSION IMMEDIATELY AND SAID THAT WE HAD NOTHING TO HIDE.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE ALLEGED DUNCAN POISONING, HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT WE COULD HAVE READ INTO THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ANY IMPLICATION OF US COMPLICITY. I THEN ASKED WHETHER HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE A CLEAR PUBLIC STATEMENT CORRECTING THAT IMPRESSION. HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO CONTACT THE PRIME MINISTER IMMEDIATELY AND WOULD CALL ME BACK LATER TODAY ABOUT THE PRIMIN'S REACTION TO MY REQUEST. AN HOUR LATER THE FONMIN'S OFFICE CALLED TO SEE IF I COULD MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON NOV. 21 AT 1 P.M.

3. COMMENT: THE FONMIN WAS VISIBLY DISTURBED WHEN I PRESSED HIM ON THE "PENTHOUSE" AND DUNCAN ALLEGATIONS BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZED THE SPOT HE WAS BEING IN FROM A DOMESTIC POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. I HAVE SOME QUALMS ABOUT THE TYPE OF INVESTIGATION THE GOJ MIGHT UNDERTAKE. I DO NOT THINK CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PNP WOULD BE AVERSE TO MANUFACTURING "FACTS" TO PROVE "SOME TRUTH" OF THE ALLEGATIONS.

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